



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

News Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vale District Office

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For Immediate Release

Jackson Fire Controlled

The Jackson Fire, which began about 15 miles north of Vale, Oregon, was declared controlled as of 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17th. The final size of the fire has been calculated at 79,914 acres which involved nearly 106 miles of fire line. Although the cause of the fire is still under investigation, two independent investigators have ruled out any possibility of a deliberate start.

The fire burned quickly through large areas of highly flammable cheatgrass and sagebrush. Mike Hartwell, Vale BLM District Fire Management Officer said, "when the fire jumped Moore's Hollow Road near I-84, the 5-6 mile wide front raced over 8 miles south to an area between Henry's Gulch and Stanton Boulevard in 10 minutes or up to 50-60 miles per hour." This rate of spread was nearly 2,560 acres per minute, or 64 40-acre fields per minute, or greater than 1 40-acre field per second.

At the height of the fire activity, BLM-assigned resources included 34 engines (or 1 engine for every 3 miles of fire line), 3 20-person hand crews, 4 air tankers and a lead plane, 4 helicopters, 2 dozers, 2 graders, 3 water tenders, and support personnel, totaling 229 people. In addition, Governor Kitzhaber declared a 'conflagration' which mobilized rural firefighters from The Dales, Union County and Baker City to assist those from Vale, Ontario, Payette, Weiser, Nyssa, Huntington, Cambridge and Indian Valley in defending the more than 100 homes and structures threatened by the fire.

Of the 79,914 acres involved in this fire, 30,170 acres are private, 49,516 acres are BLM-administered (public) lands, 150 acres are State, and 78 acres are managed by the Bureau of

Reclamation.

Public lands resources impacted include livestock grazing allotments, areas of special status plant species, portions along the historic Oregon Trail, and deer winter range comprised of native plant communities. Confirmed property losses include a single-wide mobile home, a horse trailer, a 5th -wheel trailer, a trailer loaded with hay. A shop and 2 dogs were also lost. Several hay stacks and all or some portions of grain fields were consumed. There is 1 cow confirmed lost.

BLM is preparing a fire rehabilitation plan which will guide efforts on public lands for any necessary reseeding or other actions required to stabilize the ground disturbed by the fire. Completion of this plan is expected within 2 weeks.

“It was very fortunate that no lives were lost or serious personal injuries resulted from suppression activities related to this very fast-moving fire,” said Juan Palma, Vale BLM District Manager. “We would like remind everyone of the very dry conditions this year which occurred at least a month ahead of normal.”

For any questions regarding the Jackson fire, liability information, or current fire restrictions on the public lands, contact the BLM office in Vale at 541-473-3221.

-End-

Jackson Fire 7/14-15/00

